

DRAFT RECLAMATION MANUAL RELEASE
Comments on this draft release must be submitted to
dwelch@do.usbr.gov by November 21, 2008.

Background and Purpose of the Following Draft Policy

The goal of revising the Policy and providing stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on it in draft form is to enhance the common understanding of how the Bureau of Reclamation will manage its recreation program throughout the 17 Western States and enhance the working relationship with our project partners.

The Reclamation Manual Policy (LDN P04) in concert with Directive and Standard (LND 01-03) will be used to ensure effective management of public outdoor recreation at the 289 developed recreation areas managed by either Reclamation or our Federal and non-Federal partners. The Policy establishes the overall guiding principles for recreation program management.

The Reclamation Manual is used to clarify program responsibility and authority and to document Reclamation-wide methods of doing business. All requirements in the Reclamation Manual are mandatory.

See the following pages for the draft Policy statement.

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LND P04

Reclamation Manual

Draft Policy

Subject:	Recreation Program Management
Purpose:	Defines the Bureau of Reclamation's overall role and responsibility in providing public outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. This Policy benefits Reclamation by providing the guiding principles for implementing a successful recreation management strategy.
Authority:	Reclamation Act of 1902 (ch. 1093, 32 Stat. 388; 43 USC 391 et seq.), as amended and supplemented; Economy Act of 1932 (ch. 314; 31 USC 1535), as amended; Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (ch. 418, 53 Stat. 1187; 43 USC 485 et seq.); Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (Pub. L. 89-72; 79 Stat. 213, 214; 16 USC 460l et seq.), as amended; Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-480; 82 Stat. 718; 42 USC 4151 et seq.); Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112; 87 Stat. 355; 29 USC 701 et seq.), as amended; Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-575, Title XXVIII; 106 Stat. 4690; 16 USC 460l-31-460l-34), as amended; Law Enforcement Authority at Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, 2001 (Pub. L. 107-69; 115 Stat. 593; 43 USC 373b); Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447, Div. J, Title VIII; 118 Stat. 3377; 16 USC 6801 et seq.); 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 21, Occupancy of Cabin Sites on Public Conservation and Recreation Areas; 43 CFR part 24, Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Policy; 43 CFR part 420, Off-Highway or Off-Road Vehicles; 43 CFR part 423, Public Conduct on Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, Lands, and Waterbodies; 43 CFR part 429, Procedure to Process and Recover the Value of Rights-of-Use and Administrative Costs Incurred in Permitting Such Use; and Reclamation project-specific authorities.
Approving Official:	Commissioner
Contact:	Policy and Program Services, Land Resources Office, 84-53000

1. **Introduction.** The recreation and tourism industry is one of the Western States' largest industries and the nation's second largest employer. National surveys show that water-based recreation activities are among the most popular outdoor recreation activities. Statistics also show that the American public relies on publicly owned and managed reservoirs and lands for many of these recreation activities. As our

Reclamation Manual

Draft Policy

nation's population increases, so does the need for adequate public recreation opportunities and facilities.

2. **Applicability.** This Policy applies to the recreation management of lands and waterbodies that remain under the jurisdiction of Reclamation, including those lands and waterbodies managed by a partner (i.e., non-Federal or another Federal agency). This Policy establishes the basic principles for implementing various recreation authorities and supersedes the Commissioner's policy letters of December 22, 1993, and May 31, 1995.
3. **Responsibilities.** Implementation of this Policy and the underlying authorities is the responsibility of Reclamation's directors and managers with overall recreation program administration being provided by the Policy and Program Services office as provided in Paragraph 4 of LND 01-03 and Reclamation Manual Directive and Standard, *Implementation of the Cost-Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement*, LND 01-01.
4. **Recreation Principles.** In planning, developing, and managing public outdoor recreation resources on Reclamation lands and waters, Reclamation will be guided by the following principles:
 - A. Fulfill Reclamation's stewardship responsibilities by providing recreation opportunities, facilities, and services on Reclamation lands and waters consistent with authorized project purposes, resource management plans or other planning documents, authorized uses, adjacent commercial or recreational land uses, and applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and Reclamation policy.
 - B. Provide sufficient resources to protect, conserve, preserve, enhance, and interpret the natural, historical, and cultural resources entrusted to Reclamation, while protecting recreation facilities and services, public health and safety, and ensuring the security of Reclamation project facilities.
 - C. Use effective approaches to managing Reclamation's land and water recreation resources in cooperation with Federal and non-Federal entities, partnerships, volunteers, for-profit and non-profit organizations, private businesses, and concessionaires, etc.
 - D. Reclamation will give full consideration for the inclusion of outdoor recreation opportunities in project planning that is commensurate with public needs and Reclamation responsibilities, objectives, and authorities.

Reclamation Manual

Draft Policy

- E. Consider regulations and policies of managing partners when developing partnership agreements and exercise appropriate approval authority and oversight of managing partners, permittees, and concessionaires to ensure agreement compliance and the protection and appropriate use of land, resources, and facilities.
- F. Residential and recreational exclusive uses will be regulated as specified in 43 CFR part 21 and 43 CFR part 429.
- G. Promote outreach and communication with stakeholders and the public to ensure successful implementation of recreation management actions.

5. **Management of Recreation Areas**

- A. As outlined in Pub. L. 89-72, as amended, Reclamation will seek non-Federal government entities or other Federal agencies to manage recreation in lieu of Reclamation management. Each Reclamation office will provide an appropriate level of oversight of managing partners to fulfill Reclamation's land, resource, and recreation stewardship responsibilities.
- B. Absent a managing partner, Reclamation will plan, construct, and manage recreation facilities and activities pursuant to the stipulations contained in Pub. L. 89-72 or project specific recreation authority as described in LND 01-01 and LND 01-03.
- C. Within existing authorities, each Reclamation office will take appropriate action to minimize the possibility of a partner returning management of a recreation area back to Reclamation, whenever possible. However, if a recreation managing partner turns a recreation area back to Reclamation, it will manage and maintain existing recreation facilities and activities at a level that protects the health and safety of the public and the integrity of existing facilities. Expansion or replacement of existing recreation facilities at areas that have been turned back to Reclamation are not authorized unless project specific authority exists.

- 6. **Cost Sharing Activities.** When there is a Pub. L. 89-72 agreement with a non-Federal partner, Reclamation may cost share up to 50 percent for planning, constructing, operating and maintaining recreation facilities on Reclamation lands. When Reclamation has a Federal recreation partner, the level of funding for planning, constructing, and maintaining recreation facilities is determined through authorizing legislation and a management agreement.

Reclamation Manual

Draft Policy

7. **Supporting Reclamation Manual (RM) Policy and Directives and Standards.**
This Policy is supported by the following RM Policies and Directives and Standards. These Policies and Directives and Standards provide detailed information for planning, developing, and managing recreation resources.
- A. *Implementation of Cost-Sharing Authorities for Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement*, LND 01-01.
 - B. *Recreation Program Management*, LND 01-03.
 - C. *Concessions Management*, LND P02.
 - D. *Concessions Management by the Bureau of Reclamation*, LND 04-01.
 - E. *Concessions Management by Non-Federal Partners*, LND 04-02.
 - F. *Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act*, LND 01-02.
 - G. *Visitor Centers*, LND P13 and LND 13-01.